[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for lunch to re-assemble at 2.45 p.m

13.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty Minutes past Two of the Clock.

14.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifty-Two Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Now we shall take up Matters under Rule 377

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Sanction Adequate funds for the implementation of Arba-Jhorabahal Community Irrigation Project, Orissa

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, I draw the attention of the Government to the Arba-Jhorabahal Community Irrigation Project under Panposh Inegrated Tribal Developmnet Agency in Sundargarh parliamentary constituency. The Government of Orissa had requested the Union Government to santion a sum of Rs 9 crore for the Project The Union Government had sanctioned Rs. 3 58 crore for the implementation of the Head Project only. Now, the total cost of the project has been estimated at Rs 9 crore. Sir, if the project is implemented it would irrigate 4 000 acres of land in kharif season and 3.500 acres in rabi season in the first phase and 2.700 acres in rabi season during the second phase This will benefit 2.703 small and marginal farmers of which 2 464 belong to Scheduled Tribe community, 136 to Scheduled Caste and 103 to other communities, bulk of whom are below the poverty line. Sir, once the Project is materialised it would change the fortunes of these tribals

I would, therefore, request the Union Government to sanction Rs. 9 crore in favour of Arba-Jhorabahal Community Irrigation Project and place it under the disposal of Integrated Tribal Development Agency Panposh in the District of Sundargarh, Orissa.

(ii) Need to Develop Sitamarhi in Bihar as a Tourist Resort

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Sir, Sitamarhi which is the birth place of Sita, in Bihar is a very backward area. This place is a historic tourist *place and there are no facilities for tourists. I had taken* up this matter to develop this place as a tourist resort in the Tenth Lok Sabha also but no action seems to have been taken in this agard. Now I suggest the following points for developing this place as a historic place :

1. Sitamarhi should be put on the national tourist map and all facilities should be provided for tourists;
2. Muzafarpur-Sitamarhi new railway line should be approved this year; and
3. Patna-Muzafarpur-Sitamarhi road should be upgraded as a National Highway.

(iii) Need to Provide Adequate funds for Rural Health centres in the country and also Introduce Rural Health Policy

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : Primary Health Centres in the country are essential A number of health centres in the country are without doctors and medicines In rural centres, mostly poor villagers suffer from lack of health care. The main reason for their suffering in the health centres in the villages is, lack of proper funds in the Rural Health Policy. Moreover no infrastructure facilities are available in the rural hospitals I request the Union Government to provide necessary funds for medicine and introduce rural health policy in the country

(iv) Need to take steps to save the tanneries and leather industries Operating in Ambur and Vaniampadi from Closure

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the hurdles posed by the concerted efforts the Government takes to control pollution in protecting the environment to the detriment of industrial growth Tanneries and leather industries are operating in Ambur and Vaniampadi for a long time These industries provide scope for economic activity and employment opportunity in this area which is otherwise industrially backward. Now, most of these leather industrial units are facing closure due to the implementation of pollution control measures. The people in these areas are more affected by the closure of these units than by the possible pollution that could be caused by these units. Apart from losing their livelihood, the people could not get any remedial or reclamatory process that could employ them in agricultural activity.

The country is also losing crores of valuable foreign exchange earned by many of these export-oriented

* English translation of the Speech
* Original delivered in Tamil